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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,500	11/12/2003	David Tropp		7235
7590	09/22/2004			
			EXAMINER	
			LABAZE, EDWYN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2876		

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DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/706,500	TROPP, DAVID
	Examiner	Art Unit
	EDWYN LABAZE	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4302004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Receipt is acknowledged of Ids filed on 4/30/2004.
2. Claims 1-4 are presented for examination.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bretl et al. (U.S. 4,866,958).

Re claims 1 and 3-4: Bretl et al. discloses push-button lock mechanisms, which includes a combination lock portion (which includes a set of numbers as shown in fig. # 19-20) and having a master key lock portion 11 (col.9, lines 31+), the master key lock portion for receiving a master key 12 that can open the master key lock portion 11.

Bretl et al. fails to suggest that the special key designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage and the luggage screening authority had agreed not to break, means of providing the luggage screening authority, directly or indirectly access to the master key.

The applicant did not disclose the TSA Approved requirements for a special lock so that the luggage screening authority has agreed not to break or clip the lock.

However, since the applicant discloses a special lock as having a combination lock portion and a master key lock (see page 3, last paragraph), an indicia thereon conveying to

luggage purchasers that is approved by a luggage screening authority and agreed not to break. Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ into the teachings of Bretl et al. a special key designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage. Furthermore, such modification would provide a means for securing an airline luggage (see U.S. reference 6,522,253 of Saltus). In addition, one would agree that the secret code for opening the lock should be personal (not available to luggage screening authority) so as to protect the personal contents within the luggage. Moreover, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Bretl et al.

Re claim 2: Bretl et al. teaches an apparatus and method, wherein the master key lock portion includes a key hole 11 on a bottom of the special that receives the master key 12 (col.19, lines 19-60).

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Atkinson (U.S. 3,952,559) discloses exposed shackle padlock.

Cheng (U.S. 4,751,830) teaches push-button padlock with secondary key.

Taylor et al. (U.S. 4,952,228) discloses push-button padlock with secondary key.

Gable (U.S. 5,134,869) teaches key-safe resetting mechanism.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWYN LABAZE whose telephone number is (571) 272-2395. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

el  
Edwyn Labaze  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2876  
September 16, 2004



KARL D. FRECH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER